

LISTING OF CLAIMS

1-5. (canceled)

6. (previously presented) A carrier device according to claim 12, wherein the mutual spacing of said partitions forming said receiving pockets substantially corresponds to the thickness of the film packs received therein.

7. (previously presented) A carrier device according to claim 6 wherein said partitions forming said receiving pockets are arranged in a manner with an opening angle of more than 0°.

8. (original) A carrier device according to claim 7 wherein said partitions are flexibly held on an elongated body so that said receiving pockets may be expanded while increasing the opening angle.

9. (canceled)

10. (previously presented) A carrier device according to claim 12, wherein said carrier device has a stackable construction.

11. (previously presented) A carrier device according to claim 10 wherein said carrier device has a stackable construction so that said receiving pockets of one carrier device are partly positioned in gaps between receiving pockets of an adjacently arranged carrier device so that the carrier device and the adjacently arranged carrier device may both hold bags or film packs in their respective receiving pockets without either carrier device coming into contact with the bags or film packs held in the other carrier device.

12. (previously presented) A magazine-like carrier device for handling and heat treating a plurality of rectangular bags or film packs, the carrier device comprising:

an elongated body comprising a plurality of adjacent parallel v-shaped channels; and

a plurality of partitions affixed flexibly to the body and directed away from the body, substantially parallel to each other and to the channels, such that a plurality of receiving pockets is formed, each pocket having a v-shaped bottom that is the bottom of one of the channels, each partition forming a wall of one of the pockets, two partitions being affixed between any two adjacent channels;

wherein the width of the carrier device substantially corresponds to the longest dimension of the bags or film packs to be received; and

wherein the height of the carrier device, resulting from the height of the body plus the height of the partitions, is smaller than the length of the shorter lateral edge of the bags or film packs received therein.

13. (new) The carrier device of claim 12, wherein each of the partitions is substantially continuous over its entire vertical and horizontal extent.